

Xavier University

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Xavier Student Newspapers

2019-10-30

Xavier University Newswire

Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio)

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SGA Exec campaign commences

After last year’s four tickets, one team is running for the executive positions

There is one ticket running for the executive positions in Student Government Association this year. However, the ticket must receive at least 50% of the student body vote and one additional vote in order to win the seats.

The ticket goes by the name CPP (Community, Passion, Progress), and is comprised of Thomas Wehby, Michaela Townsend and Mahnoor Zahra.

You can read a brief summary of their platform here and a full version will be available on xaviernewswire.com. The platform is unedited to preserve their original language.

Our Mission:

Our mission is to bring the diverse community of Xavier together to ensure the provision of equitable opportunity to every individual. Our united love and passion for our university will drive us to pursue the Xavier Values of integrity, justice, and generosity across campus. With progress in mind, we aim to learn together, to serve together and grow together.

We have built our platform around three core values: Community, Passion and Progress. Community entails ensuring each Xavier student can find spaces for themselves on campus, building intersectional relationships amongst students and further cultivating the already existing Xavier community. Passion deals with the parts of our identities that we hold closest and translating that into different areas across campus through projects and initiatives; we want to encourage all Xavier students to find what they are passionate about and put that passion to work to create change. Progress, to us, means constantly furthering the institution we love. Progress means we will identify aspects of the Xavier experience that can be reformed, adjusted or eliminated to ensure that all students are met with access to equitable opportunity across campus.

Diversity & Inclusion

International students

- Increasing the recruitment and retention of international students.
- Increasing financial assistance through need-based and merit-based scholarships
- Extending our support to all international and identity clubs/organizations through partnership programs.



Mahnoor Zahra (left), Thomas Wehby (Center) and Michaela Townsend (right) are running for the Student Government Executive positions. You can read a shortened version of the platform they submitted to Newswire.

- Creating comfortable and safe spaces for international students to share their culture.
 - Providing secure housing for students who get admitted late as a result of the international admission process.
 - Connecting students with companies who accept and support international interns and employees by working with Career Development Office and the Center for International Education
- Commuters Accommodations*
- Creation of a “Commuter One Night Hotel” system
 - Women of color speaking series
 - Bring in 3-5 speakers each semester, all Women of Color, who can share how their passions turned into tangible work.
- LGBTQ+ Policy*
- Work with Alliance and Members of the LGBTQ+ community
 - Create an Ally Checkbox for Residence Halls
- Mosaic Initiative*
- A roundtable for all Identity Clubs on campus
 - Mosaic “Being an Ally” Workshop for supporting Minorities across our Community

- Student Wellness & Safety**
- Menstrual Care Products Across Campus
 - Open forum with administration, XUPD, faculty leaders
 - Continuing “Your School, Your Questions”
 - Enhancing XU AlertMe

- reporting range
- Engagement on Campus**
- Reinvigoration of Involvement*
- Improve digital literacy and virtual presence of clubs and organizations on campus
- Event Hosting Policy Changes*
- Review current OSI policy changes involving Walk-by event planning
 - “Coffee, Concerns, and Community”
 - Host a weekly Coffee Hour for students to express their concerns to the Executives
- Dining**
- Conversation with ConneX*
- Talk about current satisfaction with oncampus dining options
 - Talk about the filling Curritos space, post-lease
 - “Hoff Food Excursions” - opportunity for the Dining Hall to cater food from lo-

- cal establishments
- Multicultural food options*
- Push for multicultural food availability inside Hoff
- Accessibility**
- Expanding Wheelchair Accessibility across campus*
- Ensure every dorm has Accessible Clicker-activated doors
 - Properly marking curbside ramps with blue paint
 - Permanent ramp for DIFT Studio
 - Working to make Kuhlman’s Yard Entrance Wheelchair Accessible
 - Building a ramp for the Husman Stage, a center point of the community
- Caf Help Availability*
- Make the Caf more accessible via offering helpers to students who need them
 - Post signs that inform students of the available assistance
 - Officially mark the tables as

- Wheelchair Accessible
- Academics**
- Providing students with a choice over the format of their textbooks*
- Ipad checkouts for online textbooks*
- Reinvigoration of Academic Honesty Commitment*
- Sustainability**
- Recycling*
- Increase Number of Recycling Bins
 - Properly inform students about on-campus recycling
 - Review the overall effectiveness of the type of bins we have around campus
- Campus Compost*
- Work with GoZero and ConneX and create a campus compost plan for all food scraps produced in the caf
- Partnering with Metro bus*
- Reduce the stigma surrounding the use of Metro Buses
 - Work to get students a discounted bus fair
- Lyft Partnership*
- Solar on the Green*
- Provide a solar powered solution to the lack of outlets on the yard by installing a solar powered charging station
- Recreation**
- Lounging on the Green*
- Install Permanent Hammock Posts
 - Invest in more permanent Swings on the Yard

- Student Government Finance**
- Push for University funded elections in order to prevent any non-Xavier affiliated organizations from having any serious impact on our elections.

SGA Senate Elections

This year, the Board of Elections has decided to combine the Senate elections with the Executive election. Both will be happening on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

The students who have applied to be senators responded to three questions:

(1) Why are you interested in serving in this position?

(2) What makes you qualified to serve in this office?

(3) If you could change one thing about Xavier, what would it be, and how would you accomplish this?

Their answers can be found online at xaviernewswire.com.

In other news, the basketball issue is here! It begins on page 6.

U-Station expansion announced

New “campus near” apartment complex will accommodate more students



Graphic courtesy of Messer Construction Co.

A second apartment complex at University Station has begun construction and is scheduled to be done before the next school year.

BY CHARLIE GSTALDER
Staff Writer

A new set of University Station apartments are under construction with plans in place to build units capable of housing 149 residents by July 2020.

According to local news source Fox 19, construction on the 49-unit expansion began in August and, when completed, will stand adjacent to the Health United Building (HUB) and the current U-Station complex. The development was planned as a partnership among landowner Xavier University, Terrex Development and Construction, Messer Construction Co. and M&A Architects. Messer and M&A have worked extensively with the university in years past, most recently on

the HUB.

“We’re proud to assist in fulfilling the housing needs of the university and further Messer’s outstanding, long-time relationship with Xavier,” Messer Development Vice President Brian Doyle said in an official statement. “We’re excited to kick-start additional development at the site and continue the revitalization in the community that began in 2013.”

U-Station apartments are not considered “on-campus” housing but rather function as “campus near” housing for the university. “Campus near” refers to land that is owned by Xavier but leased to a third party — in this case Uptown Rental Properties — which manages the apartment complex. This system allows

Xavier students to live nearby without the university taking on the upkeep and operations costs of on-campus residence halls and apartments.

“Xavier has limited resources for how much housing we can build, so this allows us to have housing for our students without having to do it all ourselves,” Vice President of Facilities Bob Sheeran said.

Other institutions designated as “campus near” include the All for One Shop and Starbucks.

According to Sheeran, both sets of U-Station Apartments were first planned roughly 15 years ago.

The university’s acquisition of the land on which the apartments stand began in 1990 following an explosion at a chemical plant formerly located there. Initially, developers planned to build a hotel there but became apprehensive about placing a hotel far from the interstate. Thus, the idea of using the land for student housing was born.

The first U-Station apartment complex was completed in 2014 and added 180 apartment units for rent at a developer cost of \$54 million, according to Fox 19.

Sheeran also discussed the long history of housing development around Xavier’s campus.

“My father went here in the ‘40s when there was nearly no

on-campus housing,” he said. “Now that the university has built more of a national footprint, we decided we would like to provide 70% of our students with campus housing, if they want it.”

Future construction projects are also in the works to continue toward the 70% goal and accommodate the university’s growing student population.

This includes the potential construction of another undergraduate dorm on the plot of land between Kuhlman and Buenger halls. The projected dorm would hold 300 to 400 beds and is currently in the

planning phase.

Shane Manzi, a sophomore finance major, was thrilled by the idea of more places for students to live.

“I think expanding (campus near) housing is great. Our student body is expanding, and it hasn’t always been easy for my class to get places to live,” Manzi said. “Right now the option is spend a lot of money on campus or move off campus, so I think if there was a cheaper alternative I would have taken it.”

Uptown Rentals is currently renting units for the 2020-2021 school year in the soon-to-be completed complex.

October 28

Student Government Association Meeting Recap

COURTESY OF CLARISSA DIXON

- The Center for Diversity and Inclusion will have another Racial Roundtable this Thursday from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Clock Tower Lounge. This series is an intimate dialogue program that gives faculty, staff and students the opportunity to discuss topics about racial justice. This week’s topic will be about cultural appropriation.
- Xavier’s LGBTQ+ alliance is having its annual drag show on Thursday at 7:45 p.m. in Arripe Overlook or a sensory-friendly room in the Clock Tower Lounge. Tickets are free, but you must pick one up when they table in GSC or Fenwick. You must bring your ALL Card if you want a ticket.

Smooth Topics podcast looks to inspire change

Podcast seeks to raise the voices of underrepresented students at Xavier

BY WILL PEMBROKE
Staff Writer

Underrepresented cultures on campus have taken center stage in the new Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI)-sponsored podcast titled *Smooth Topics*, hosted by students Samiya Jackson and Antoine Hudson.

The idea of this digital media feature originated out of a need for a larger forum to discuss questions and concerns that were being raised in Smooth Transitions.

Smooth Transitions is an orientation and year-long mentorship initiative for first-year students of underrepresented populations making the transition to college. The orientation portion happens prior to Manresa, but each participant is assigned a mentor who helps further connect them to the Xavier community during their first year.

As the podcast’s programming director, Sierra Stennis recalled certain questions like, “Do you feel protected by authority?” were raised in meetings. These questions prompt-



Photo courtesy of Instagram

Members of the “Smooth Topics” team and executive board pose for a group picture at the new podcast’s launch party on Saturday, Oct. 26.

ed important conversations that leaders of Smooth Transitions felt required more awareness.

“(We) needed a platform for underrepresented students to discuss these issues, how we feel at our heart,” Stennis

said. “We need a place to shine a light on our issues for those who don’t relate to them as well.”

Adriana Smith, the treasurer of the podcast, also weighed in, explaining that another purpose of *Smooth*

Topics is to build a community of underrepresented students at Xavier.

“It’s not just Black issues that are a thing. We are trying to give a voice to all students who feel that their ideas and experiences aren’t a part of life here,” she said.

Robert Young, a first-year Smooth Transitions mentee, explained that the program helped participants like himself build connections with other minority students, thus contributing to his sense of community at Xavier.

Smooth Topics seeks to build upon and expand this community.

Cameron Lakes, the president of *Smooth Topics*, further explained that the primary objective for this podcast is, “making sure that people understand that underrepresented groups on campus aren’t just solely us (but rather) ... anybody who just doesn’t fit that normal identity of what a college student is at least on this campus.”

As such, representatives from LGBTQ+, Latinx, first

generation, international and African American communities are on the wish list for the podcast as potential guests for the show.

Additionally, the members of the executive board expressed interest in securing faculty guests to provide a wider variety of opinions on Xavier’s current climate for underrepresented groups on campus.

The team’s first and only podcast so far was released on Oct. 14, and it can be found on Soundcloud. In the episode, the two hosts talk about the origins and importance of *Smooth Topics*. Future episodes are currently in the process of being recorded.

The pilot episode spans about 20 minutes, but the crew hopes that future podcasts will hover around the 45-minute mark.

Students can keep up with news about the podcast and its team by following them on Instagram @smoothtopics. Podcast episodes can be listened to at soundcloud.com/smooth-topics.

City of Norwood Election preview

William DeLuca, Timothy Molony and Victor Schneider eye mayor's seat

BY MO JUENGER AND
RYAN KAMBICH
Staff Writers

Election Day 2019 is next Tuesday, Nov. 5. For members of the Xavier community registered to vote in Norwood, there are a number of important local races taking place. The entirety of Norwood's City Council is up for election this cycle, as well as the city's auditor and director of law.

Below is the *NewsWire's* preview of the three candidates running for mayor of Norwood, presented in alphabetical order. Visit us online for a complete list of Norwood races.

Xavier University's polling place is Gallagher Student Center.

William E. DeLuca
Independent:

William E. DeLuca was a Norwood City Council member for three full terms until resigning during his fourth term in 2006. While on council, he focused on economic development and implemented Norwood's Semi-Annual Street Sale. His platform emphasizes a focus on park revitalization, combatting economic corruption and money mismanagement in local government, protecting police and firefighting jobs, housing redevelopment and supporting local businesses.



Photo courtesy of Facebook
City councilman William DeLuca is running as an independent for mayor.

Timothy W. Molony
Democrat:

Timothy W. Molony has been the Norwood treasurer since 1998. His mayoral platform focuses on responsive and inclusive government, with a plan to create a "Pothead Hotline" that citizens can call to report minor road issues and a large-scale plan to assess and fix Norwood's damaged roads. He plans to improve parks through the implementation of cost-sharing systems and the reestablishment of a "youth-centered recreation commission." He wants to schedule maintenance for Norwood's Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works facility, Senior/Community Center and Health Department. He plans to promote property tax

incentives, property rehabilitation and the federal Opportunity Zone programs.

Victor Schneider
Republican:

Victor Schneider has been certified as a firefighter and police officer. He has worked at Towne Properties for the last 15 years. He has named his overarching mayoral plan the "HOME Plan," an acronym for a "Healthy community that is Outstanding, Managed and Engaged." He plans to promote city health initiatives, use of park facilities and club sports leagues. He aims to implement a "Good to Great" program to improve Norwood's current assets, such as the Norwood Lateral and Gateway entrances. He plans to improve zoning without impeding improvements.

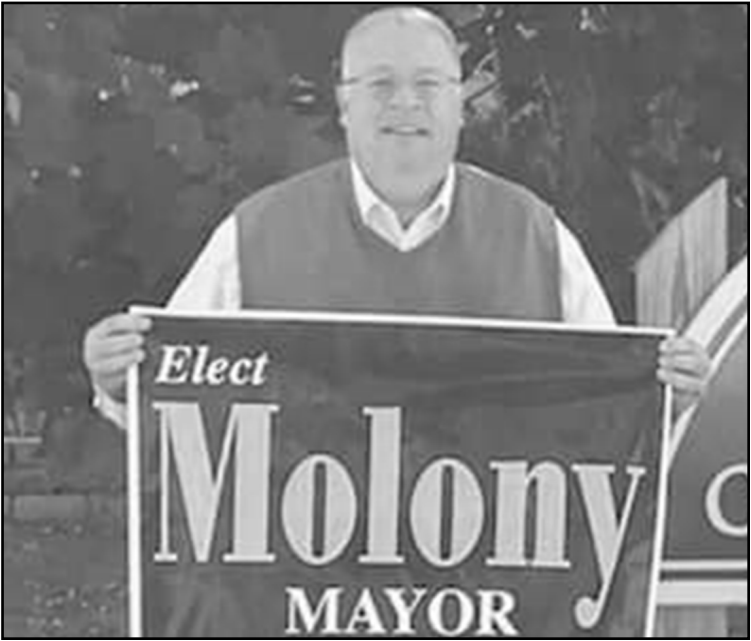


Photo courtesy of Facebook
Norwood treasurer Timothy Molony is running as a Democrat for mayor.



Photo courtesy of Facebook
Norwood resident Victor Schneider is running as a Republican for mayor.

POLICE NOTES

Oct. 16 & 20 — Xavier Police and Cincinnati Fire responded to fire alarms in Brockman Hall. In each case a pull-down station was intentionally activated, creating false alarms. Xavier Police and Residence Life are investigating.

Oct. 17, 10:10 p.m. — Xavier Police investigated a suspicious vehicle and its occupants parked in the C2 lot. Three students in the vehicle were referred to the code of conduct process after drugs and paraphernalia were discovered.

Oct. 18, 12:47 a.m. — An intoxicated underage student found in Brockman Hall while officers were patrolling the building was escorted back to their room for the night.

Oct. 19, 1:37 a.m. — Norwood Fire and Rescue transported an intoxicated student from University Station to Mercy Rookwood Hospital for possible alcohol poisoning. Norwood Police

NOTE OF THE WEEK

Don't tase me bro!

Oct. 27, 1:17 a.m. — Xavier Police assisted Residence Life with a room search in Buenger Hall. Drug paraphernalia, fictitious IDs and a small stun gun device were confiscated.

later informed Xavier Police that the student is facing additional charges for assaulting medical staff at the hospital.

Oct. 20, 1:52 a.m. — Cincinnati Police informed Xavier Police that an underage intoxicated student was arrested for disorderly conduct after being involved in an altercation at Dana Avenue and Montgomery Avenue.

Oct. 20, 6:10 p.m. — Xavier Police and Cincinnati Fire responded to four students stuck in an elevator in Kuhlman. The elevator was stuck between floors two and three, and the students were assisted out by Cincinnati Fire.

Oct. 21, 3:00 p.m. — A student reported someone had attempted to victimize them through a phishing attempt. The suspects delivered a bad check and asked the student to purchase a large amount of gift cards. The student alerted Xavier Police. An investigation is pending.

Oct. 22, 11:13 p.m. — Xavier Police investigated a report of the guest of a student harassing people and possibly stealing food in Ryan's Landing. The suspect was gone when Xavier Police arrived.

If you see something, say something.
XUPD non-emergency #
513-745-2000

Week in Review

A lot of weed, spilled milk and menus

- A man was arrested in Oregon for carrying 632 pounds of marijuana in his truck. He said he was en route to Ohio and denied knowledge of the marijuana (Oct. 23).
- A German teenager tried to win back his ex-girlfriend by breaking into the prison where she was an inmate and scaling a four-foot wall to reach her window. It's unclear whether his effort was successful (Oct. 25).
- About 5,300 gallons of milk were spilled when a tanker crashed in Crossby Township, Ohio. Although the crash closed roads for about two hours, it seems no one cried over this spilled milk (Oct. 26).
- A restaurant in Peru was fined \$62,000 for giving different menus to men and women who dined together. Men received a blue menu, and women received a gold menu without any prices. The restaurant owner said the purpose was to allow women to "enjoy a romantic evening with their partner, without taking into account the cost of the services" (Oct. 28).



Photo courtesy of WXIX
Well there is no use in crying over 5,300 gallons of spilled milk.

The beauty of vulnerability

I believe in being messy and complicated and afraid and showing up anyway.

This has been my mantra since my junior year of high school, and it has yet to fail me as I continue to dive headfirst into my freshman year of college.

For as long as I can remember, I've always been that person who is too anxious for their own good. As a perfectionist, I overthink everything, which often stunts me

from contributing in even the simplest of ways. I refuse to present anything to the world that is anything less than the best I can give (a blessing and a curse). Whether it's raising a hand in class, cracking a joke in a group of peers or asking that person I don't know very well to hang out, I tend to make situations more complicated than they otherwise would be.

As determined of a mindset as that may sound, quite frankly, it's exhausting. I caught on to that pretty quickly in high school and had to learn to be OK with the occasional mediocrity every teenager feels at one point or another. Entering into a new and vulnerable position as a freshman at Xavier, though, it wasn't long before my old habits resurfaced. What if my roommates don't like me? What if I sound stupid in class? What if they don't think I'm funny? You know how overthinking goes.

Coming into this year, I suppose I expected to feel more adult. I am in college, after all, so why wouldn't I? If anything, I felt more vulnerable than ever before (pretty unwillingly too, I might add). Sure, everyone was nervous for Manresa and the first week of classes. After that, though, I had myself convinced that I should be completely comfortable in my new environment.

Even so, the discomfort just didn't go away for me. I felt out of place and unsure of myself. I never lacked the nerve to show up, but I realized pretty quickly that just showing up wouldn't be enough. If I wanted to make the most of my time here, I'd have to get OK with being messy and complicated

in front of a bunch of strangers. However, because I felt so unsure of my place in the Xavier community, it was extremely difficult to find the courage to be so willingly vulnerable.

Like I said before, though, my mantra has yet to let me down.

After about a month of exhausting perfectionism and worrying about my every move, I remembered something important: Vulnerability makes room for good things to grow. Beauty is found in the deep down, well below surface level. It's not about outgrowing the discomfort, but instead about giving into it. It's about being vulnerable and uncomfortable and showing up anyway.

I've always believed that human connection is the most important thing in life. Without vulnerability, no connection or relationship can flourish. Vulnerability is bringing your true, messy and complicated self to the party for the sake of human connection — for the sake of growth. If you're messy and complicated, but your relationships are stronger because of it, then isn't that kind of the point? Doesn't that make it all worth it?

So, yeah — I believe in vulnerability. I believe in being uncomfortable. I believe in saying how you feel and saying it with your chest. I believe in the beauty of the deep down. I believe in truth. I believe in love and acceptance. I believe in human connection. I believe in going anywhere and doing anything at all for the people you love. I believe in being messy and complicated and afraid and showing up anyway.



Molly Hullivan is a first-year English major. She is an intern for the Newswire from Springfield, Ill.

It's not about outgrowing the discomfort, but instead about giving into it. It's about being vulnerable and uncomfortable and showing up anyway.

Challenging myself to think outside the box

Since I got to college, people ask me if I'm White. Which, to clarify, I very much am. I don't even claim to be 1/16th Native American like a lot of White people I've met. My hair is wavy and black, and my eyes are almond-shaped, so it isn't a completely far-fetched assumption. Nonetheless, I'm just White.

Aside from these experiences, such questions have had very little impact on my life. It's not inherently an awkward or offensive encounter, but I'm always amused when someone asks, "Well, you're like, what, Latina or something, right? Asian?" There never seems to be a consistent guess; I just fall into an "other" category, and I think that's extremely harmful. I could be Latina or I could be Native American or any other combination of White and (blank).

The problem that I find with this isn't that someone might see me as another race, but that they try to fit me into a box. I'm not immune

to this compulsion either. I'm generally quick to speculate on someone's race, gender or class, but why? Why are people obsessed with labeling others?

For most people, I think they see it as the easiest way to make sense of the world — which I find interesting. It's easy to say, "Oh, well, she's probably something." It's easy to create the miscellaneous box and put a person in it without thinking any deeper about the implications. Doing this is problematic, however, because it stops us from seeing that person as someone.

I can't help but ask myself what people's impressions of me are before they ask my race. Even more, what do peo-

ple who are clearly non-White think others think of them at a predominantly White university? Assuming identity denies a person the ability to be a multifaceted individual. I don't mean to say this from a place of superiority because

I tend to do it, too. There's a degree of convenience for me, the labeler, to not have to think beyond race or any other classification.

I first realized that I have this habit when I questioned my own identity. I've spent years trying to nail down my sexual orientation as a definite label. I've identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual and more, all in hopes that I could make sense of the way I feel. I truly thought that if I could just figure out what I am then

I truly thought that if I could just figure out what I am, then I'd have a better understanding of who I am. I've learned, though, that people are rarely just one thing.

I'd have a better understanding of who I am. I've learned, though, that people are rarely just one thing. Our identities are constantly changing and only in special cases are they unwavering.

I've found the times in my life where I feel the most included are when people understand my identities and then ask, "What else?" They don't impose a mandate, consciously or unconsciously, of how I must see the world or how different instances affect me. They put themselves in the position to see the world from my perspective, and they connect with me as a person full of complex feelings and experiences. It's the times when the gray area is not only tolerated but welcomed that I'm allowed to be more than what fits in the box.

This habit won't be corrected overnight. I'm still in the process of unlearning, but I think it's worth the effort. It's worth the extra moment to hear people and see

people for who they are and not just what we may think they should be. I admit, judging people is easy. It's much harder when we're forced to put our preconceptions next to a person's humanity — challenging ourselves to get comfortable with the fact that everyone's experiences don't match up, and that's OK. A label can be a proper representation, but it doesn't tell the full story. Only the person who holds that label can tell that story. We just need to have the compassion to listen.



Aleya Justison is a first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public and social work double major. She is an intern for the Newswire from Springfield, Ill.

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Mission Statement
The Xavier Newswire is committed to reporting the news as well as explain its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing viewpoints and opinions, the Newswire hope to foster a dialogue on campus, among students, faculty and staff.

Advertising
All inquiries should be directed to the Business & Advertising Manager, Jessica Blocker, at

513-745-3561.

For Your Information
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*The Newswire has made the decision to stray from the AP Style Guide when printing the words White and Black in reference to groups of people. We have decided to capitalize both.

Chicago performance mesmerizes

By KATE FERRELL
Staff Writer

Of all the theater shows that I have seen Xavier Theatre produce, *Chicago* is my favorite by a long shot. Not only did the production have an all-star cast, but it also had a dazzling set, beautiful costumes and an immersive performance that left the audience wanting more.

Chicago is a musical, set in the bustling Chicago of the 1920s. The story follows young Roxie Hart, Velma and Billy Flynn. Hart, an aspiring performer, is jailed for the murder of Fred Casely, the man she was having an affair with. Hart uses her newfound fame in the papers to propel herself forward, highlighting the vanity of her character and the flaws of the U.S. justice system all in one fell swoop.

While *Chicago* is a classic musical that has been put on thousands of times, Xavier brought a new energy to it unlike anything else I have ever seen.

The clear star of this show was Kelsey Schwarber, the actress who played Roxie Hart. Schwarber's performance as the seemingly innocent Hart was one for the books. Not only was she likeable in the sense that it was a shame every time she left the stage, but her angelic and powerful voice



Photo courtesy of Instagram

Xavier Theatre's production of Chicago delighted and mesmerized audiences with standout performances, intriguing storylines and memorable moments. The show featured a dazzling and immersive theater experience.

filled the entirety of the Gallagher Theatre.

Picking just one standout performance to commemorate was so extremely difficult. *Chicago* may have been one of the most well cast shows I have seen grace the Xavier

stage. Other commendable performances include Ellie Deutch as Velma Kelly, Andy Girmann as Amos Hart and Max Carlson as Billy Flynn. All of these performers brought so much to the stage and undoubtedly deserved

the standing ovation they received from the audience both nights I was in attendance.

Highlighting the leads of *Chicago* is easy to do, but those who are often overlooked and deserve recognition are the ensemble members of the

cast. The ensemble of *Chicago* deserves so much praise for the sheer amount of work they did on the stage. Every group number was packed full of high energy dances that were exhausting to watch. One ensemble member, Jo Dearman, who played Hunyak, a Cook County Jail inmate, even spoke Hungarian the entire show, and did it flawlessly.

Other Xavier students who attended the show sang its praises as well. Junior psychology major Emma Bruggeman was happy to share her thoughts after one of the performances.

"I had never seen a show like this before, or the movie," she said. I thought it was really upbeat and really entertaining throughout, and I really really enjoyed it."

Much like every other Xavier show that I have been to, I left *Chicago* mesmerized and happy with my decision to purchase tickets for two nights, even though they were an outrageous \$13 each.

Xavier once again put on a fabulous production that razed and dazzled all who saw it. As a known fan and critic of Xavier Theatre productions, I cannot wait to see what else they present this season.

Total score:

Frank Ocean releases new music & merchandise



Photo courtesy of Stereogum.com

Frank Ocean recently released new merchandise and two vinyls of unreleased songs, prompting fans to speculate about an upcoming album. The new track, "DHL," features lyrics that discuss love, drugs and money.

By CHARLIE GSTALDER
Staff Writer

It started with a *W Magazine* interview in late September. He spoke of himself as a recluse and about his fondness for underwater laps. Most notably, he talked about how he had been making club-style music.

Then, in mid-October, an announcement: an event at a Manhattan club. On Oct. 19, merch appeared on his web-

site: a few shirts and two 7" vinyls of unreleased songs. Within a few hours, Beats 1 Radio began airing the eighth episode of his radio show. Music from a variety of artists played, then a singular new song. By that night it was clear: Frank Ocean was back.

Frank Ocean chooses to be an enigma. You're not going to see him walking on the street or hear about anything he's done in the news. No one

is ever certain what country he is in or what company he keeps. His Instagram page is vague, and the comments are restricted. He first disappeared after releasing 2012's *Chanel Orange* to great critical acclaim.

For four years after, the world heard almost nothing from him. Then in 2016, he slowly began to reappear; he posted on his blog, gave some interviews and teased a new

project.

In August of 2016, he released a visual album titled *Endless*. One day later, his second full-length album, *Blonde*, was released. Then came a zine, a brief tour and some merch. After that, Frank disappeared again. The last time that Frank Ocean singles were released was 2017. Since then there had been nothing — until this month.

Of the released t-shirts, one reads "Blonded," a reference to his label. The other reads "PrEP+" a reference to an HIV prevention drug and the name given to his Manhattan club events. The two vinyls appear to contain a song and a remix. The newly released track is titled "DHL."

On "DHL," Frank combines rapping and singing over a beat reminiscent of U.K. club music. As far as subject matter is concerned, "DHL" is a standard Frank Ocean song. The track's introduction references unrequited love, a theme prevalent throughout all of Frank's discography.

The first verse is largely melodic, and though it lacks in substance, it sets up the rest of the track well. The chorus is about DHL, a German shipping company that Frank has expressed an affinity to-

ward. The second verse sees Frank discussing unreleased music, fashion, money, drugs and male love interests. Most notably, the phrase "sounds like it's coming soon, coming soon" runs throughout the track and may hint at the future release of more songs.

The true significance of Frank Ocean's return lies not in merch or song but rather in the prospect of a new album. Because of the four year wait between his first and second studio albums, many believe that a new project will be released in 2020. Since new music was released close to the end of 2019, a 2020 album seems even more likely.

Further contributing to the possibility of an album is the creation of a new tagline. Prior to the release of *Blonde*, the phrase "Boys Don't Cry" began appearing on Frank's websites and was rumored to be the title of the album.

Now, instead of "Boys Don't Cry," the top of Frank's website states "Look at us, we're in love." He repeated this phrase multiple times, and it may allude to the theme of his new album. However, though fans eagerly anticipate new music, it will most likely be a while before we know for sure.

Men’s hoops non-conference schedule outlook

2019-20
Schedule

Big East opponents in BOLD

Date	Opponent
11/5	Jacksonville
11/8	Siena
11/12	Missouri
11/15	Missouri State
Charleston Classic	
11/21	Towson
11/20	Buffalo/UConn
11/24	TBD
11/30	Lipscomb
12/4	Green Bay
12/7	Cincinnati
12/8	at Wake Forest
12/18	Western Carolina
12/22	at Texas Christian
12/30	at Villanova
1/5	St. John’s
1/8	Seton Hall
1/11	Creighton
1/15	at Marquette
1/22	Georgetown
1/26	at Creighton
1/29	Marquette
2/1	at Seton Hall
2/4	at DePaul
2/8	Providence
2/12	at Butler
2/17	at St. John’s
2/22	Villanova
2/25	DePaul
3/1	at Georgetown
3/4	at Providence
3/7	Butler

BY JAKE GEIGER
Staff Writer

Xavier has the opportunity to thrive and pick up some important wins before Big East play begins during its non-conference schedule. Here are the some of the key out-of-conference games to watch.

Missouri, an SEC team, poses as Xavier’s first power opponent. After losing 71-56 on the road last season to the Tigers, the Musketeers seek revenge at Cintas Center. Missouri is a young squad. It returns NBA prospect Jontay Porter and only loses one starter in guard Jordan Geist.

The Tigers also received a handful of votes in the Associated Press Poll, so another NCAA tournament berth this season is very possible. Missouri will definitely be an early test for Xavier.

Before conference play begins, Xavier will have tough matchups in the Charleston Classic. Xavier will begin the tournament against Towson on Nov. 21, and if it can win that game, it will face the winner of Buffalo/UCo-nn. The expected matchup



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer
Junior forward Naji Marshall (No. 13) was unanimously named to the preseason All-Big East First Team by the conference’s head coaches.

is Xavier-UConn, and that would be a thriller for all Big East fans.

The Huskies will be joining the Big East Conference for the 2020-21 season, so this matchup would be a mini preview before the two teams square off twice a year.

UConn had a down season in 2018, but with multiple players returning and a strong recruiting class led by head coach Dan Hurley, the Huskies are destined to improve.

The annual Crosstown Shootout is undoubtedly the most anticipated matchup of

the season. Xavier vs. UC is one of the biggest rivalries in college basketball. The bad blood is obvious between the two schools with continued excellence by both programs. After a tough loss last season to the Bearcats, can the Musketeers steal the bragging rights in 2019?

UC brings in first-year coach John Brannen from Northern Kentucky after the departure of Mick Cronin to UCLA. Brannen brings a young and vibrant culture to the program and has already added some impact players in Jaevin Cumberland from Oak-

Xavier welcomes five new freshmen

BY SAYO JOLAYEMI
Staff Writer

A lot of buzz has been centered around Xavier’s five-man freshman class, which has fed the program with serious talent. Let’s dive into what each of the players can offer.

KyKy Tandy stands at 6-foot-2 and has the make-up of a dominant point guard. As a four-star prospect from Hopkinsville, Ky., Tandy notched 3,363 points throughout his time at University Heights Academy, the eighth most in Kentucky high school basketball history. He averaged nearly 27 points per game and 4.4 rebounds per game.

Tandy’s vertical is exceptional, and it allows him

to get shots up while rising over defenders. He can also cut through the lane to finish with an emphatic dunk, as he put on display on his high school highlight tape.

Dahmir Bishop joins the Musketeers from Philadelphia, Pa. His 6-foot-5 frame and impressive hustle will make an impact on the court. Bishop blossomed in his last two years of high school, receiving First Team All-State honors in both his junior and senior years. During his senior season, he averaged 12 points per game and 5.5 rebounds per game on an Imhotep Institute squad that won the PIAA Class AAAA State Championship.

Zach Freemantle, from Teaneck, N.J., stands at 6-foot-

9 with an athletic frame. He spent all four of his high school years at Bergen Catholic High School. Throughout the course of his high school career, he evolved into a four-star recruit and a top-100 player. His high school resume was capped by senior year lines of 17 points per game, 10.5 rebounds per game and 2 blocks per game.

Dieonte Miles hails from nearby Walton, Ky., just a short 35-minute drive from Xavier’s campus. At 6-foot-11, he is the tallest member of the Xavier freshman class. Miles averaged 14.7 points per game, 6.7 rebounds per game and 4 blocks per game as a senior at Walton-Verona High School.

Known for his shot block-

land, as well as Jaume Sorolla from Valparaiso. UC also returns its top three scorers in Keith Williams, Tre Scott and preseason First-Team American Athletic Conference forward Jarron Cumberland.

Fans know this game will have all the hype, energy and fireworks for a classic Crosstown Shootout.

The Musketeers will conclude their non-conference schedule this year against TCU, led by head coach Jamie Dixon. The former head coach at Pittsburgh enters his fourth year with the Horned Frogs. Dixon has turned around the program and made TCU into a consistent threat in the Big 12.

The Horned Frogs are projected to have a down year after losing senior point guard Alex Robinson and other valuable starters. However, TCU returns senior forward Desmond Bane, who averaged 15 points per game last season.

Even though TCU was picked to finish last in the Big 12 Preseason Poll, the Horned Frogs should not be overlooked, especially because Xavier is on the road.

ing ability, Miles batted away 350 shots throughout the course of his high school career, the most in program history. As a senior, he notched numerous accolades, including First Team All-State, and was a candidate for Kentucky’s “Mr. Basketball” award.

Daniel Ramsey is a four-star recruit from Cordele, Ga. At 6-foot-9, Ramsey is a versatile forward who can accomplish a lot offensively. As a senior at Norcross High School, he posted 9.5 points per game and 5 rebounds per game.

Xavier has an intriguing crop of freshmen, and fans should be eager to watch them perform at Cintas Center.

2019-20 Men’s Team Roster						
Number	Name	Year	Position	Height	Hometown	Coaching Staff
0	Daniel Ramsey	Freshman	Forward	6-9	Cordele, Ga.	Head Coach: Travis Steele (2nd season)
1	Paul Scruggs	Junior	Guard	6-4	Indianapolis, Ind.	
2	Dahmir Bishop	Freshman	Guard	6-5	Philadelphia, Pa.	
3	Quentin Goodin	Senior	Guard	6-4	Campbellsville, Ky.	Assistant Coach: Jonas Hayes
4	Tyrique Jones	Senior	Forward	6-9	Bloomfield, Conn.	
10	Leighton Schrand	Senior	Guard	6-2	Villa Hills, Ky.	
11	Bryce Moore	Graduate	Guard	6-3	Indianapolis, Ind.	Assistant Coach: Ben Johnson
12	Dontarius James	Sophomore	Forward	6-7	Kershaw, S.C.	
13	Naji Marshall	Junior	Forward	6-7	Atlantic City, N.J.	
15	Spencer Cody	Sophomore	Guard	6-0	Chicago, Ill.	Assistant Coach: Dante Jackson
20	Ramon Singh	Sophomore	Guard	6-4	Sydney, Australia	
21	Zak Swetye	Sophomore	Guard	6-1	Darien, Conn.	
22	Dieonte Miles	Freshman	Forward	6-11	Walton, Ky.	Associate Athletic Director for Basketball Administration: Mario Mercurio
24	KyKy Tandy	Freshman	Guard	6-2	Hopkinsville, Ky.	
25	Jason Carter	Junior	Forward	6-8	Johnstown, Ohio	
32	Zach Freemantle	Freshman	Forward	6-9	Teaneck, N.J.	Special Assistant to the Head Coach: Matthew Graves
34	Myles Hanson	Junior	Forward	6-7	Chaska, Minn.	

Women’s basketball non-conference preview

BY HUNTER ELLIS
Staff Writer

The Musketeers have a challenging non-conference schedule before the start of Big East play at the end of December. Here are some of the primary out-of-conference matchups to be on the lookout for.

Xavier kicks off the season with a game at home against Utah. The Utes had a record of 20-10 in 2018-19 and were ranked No. 21 toward the end of last season. However, the Utes lost a few of their statistical leaders from last season and have a young team. The squad will be led by sophomore point guard Dru Gylten, who is a Nancy Lieberman Award Watch List player along with senior guard Kiana Moore.

Temple will provide a tough challenge behind six-time Coach of the Year Tonya Cardoza and junior forward Mia Davis, who averaged 19 points per game last season en route to a first team All-Big 5 selection. Temple had an 11-19 record last year but was 7-4 at home in Philadelphia.

After several winning seasons under eighth-year coach



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Junior forward A’riana Gray led the women’s basketball team in points per game last year, and her scoring ability makes her an offensive threat.

Brady Sallee, Ball State suffered a down season last year, with a record of 8-23. While the Cardinals have a lot of young players on the roster, with 10 freshmen and sophomores, they return all five of their statistical leaders from last season and will likely be better this year.

The Wright State Raiders are coming off a 27-7 season and are picked to win the Horizon League for a second straight season this year. Wright State is led by senior guard Michal Miller, an all-conference first team player last season, and defending

Horizon League Coach of the Year Katrina Merriweather.

Colorado is the second Pac-12 team the Musketeers will face, and the Buffaloes come from a loaded conference with three of the top 12 teams in all of women’s college basketball. They finished 12-18 last season and have been projected to finish last in the league this season. Colorado will depend on several underclassmen players to help improve upon the lackluster results last season.

The Crosstown Shootout is one of the most anticipated games of the season for the

Musketeers.

Last year, the Bearcats won the contest at UC and finished the season 24-11. It was head coach Michelle Clark-Heard’s first season at the helm of the Bearcats’ squad.

UC is predicted to finish in a tie for third in the American Conference. The Bearcats bring on a whopping seven freshmen to the roster. They also return all of their statistical leaders from last season, including senior guard Antoinette Miller, who averaged 13.6 points per game and 5.2 assists per game.

The Musketeers will wrap up their non-conference schedule by playing in the third annual West Palm Beach Invitational.

They will first match up against Florida, who went 8-23 last season but plays in the tough SEC. The Gators boast two highly recruited guards, five-star Lavender Briggs and four-star Nina Rickards.

The Musketeers will then face Northwestern, who finished last year at 21-15. The Wildcats are led by junior guard Lindsey Pulliam, who was named to the Ann Meyers Drysdale Award Watch List.

2019-20 Schedule

Big East opponents in BOLD

Date	Opponent
11/7	Utah
11/14	at Temple
11/16	at Rider
11/20	at Ball State
11/23	Wright State
12/1	at Robert Morris
12/6	Colorado
12/8	Eastern Kentucky
12/14	Cincinnati
West Palm Beach Invitational	
12/20	Florida
12/21	Northwestern
12/29	St. John’s
12/31	Seton Hall
1/4	Butler
1/10	at Georgetown
1/12	at Villanova
1/17	DePaul
1/19	Marquette
1/24	at Creighton
1/26	at Providence
1/31	at Butler
2/7	Villanova
2/9	Georgetown
2/14	at Marquette
2/16	at DePaul
2/21	Providence
2/23	Creighton
2/28	at Seton Hall
3/1	at St. John’s

Musketeers add two to freshman class

BY ANDREW ZERMAN
Staff Writer

The Xavier women’s basketball team has undergone many changes during the off-season. This extends beyond the coaching staff changes and includes the players themselves.

The 2019-20 team welcomes two freshmen: guard Morgan Sharps and forward Courtney Prenger.

Sharps hails from a suburb outside Columbus. One major area of her playstyle revolves around shooting from distance. She holds the Newark High School record with 98 three-pointers made.

In addition, Sharps was the second-leading scorer in school history, having totaled nearly 1,500 points throughout her career. She was also a

three-time All-OHSAA selection and a three-time All Ohio Capital Conference Honoree.

She holds the distinction of having been the first commit for new head coach Melanie Moore.

“We are thrilled to have Morgan join our Xavier family,” Moore told goxavier.com. “She is one of the best shooters in Ohio and will bring a highly competitive mentality to our program. We hit a home run with our first signee, and she will have an immediate impact on bringing the winning tradition back to Xavier.”

Sharps had a high school career that had a strong correlation between individual success and team success on the court. Her high school posted a 96-15 overall record

during the four years that she was on the team. It also accumulated three conference titles, three district championships and one regional championship within that span.

Prenger had similar individual and team successes during her career, but it was marked by a different style of play. Prenger is a forward from Minster, Ohio, which is about two hours from Cincinnati.

She was a state champion track runner at Minster High School prior to her arrival at Xavier.

Prenger compiled more than 1,200 points in her high school career, which ranks second all-time at her school.

Additionally, she is the all-time leader in rebounds (673) and recorded 231 blocks

in her four years. Her accolades are numerous, with four all-conference selections, four All-District 8 selections and the 2019 District 8 Player of the Year award.

Her team also thrived during this period, finishing with a 98-12 record in a four-year span along with two Division IV State Championships.

Her signing took place before the hiring of Moore, under former head coach Brian Neal. Even with the coaching change, Prenger elected to keep her pledge to Xavier.

Sharps and Prenger are both accustomed to successful high school careers. Now, they hope to use their individual talents and represent the promising future for the team in the long run.

2019-20 Women’s Team Roster

Number	Name	Year	Position	Height	Hometown	Coaching Staff
0	Sarah Leyendecker	Sophomore (RS)	Forward	6-4	Cincinnati, Ohio	Head Coach: Melanie Moore (1st season)
1	Nia Clark	Sophomore	Guard	5-9	Indianapolis, Ind.	
2	Deja Ross	Junior	Forward	6-0	Providence, R.I.	
3	Aaliyah Dunham	Junior	Guard	5-4	So. Charleston, W.Va.	Assistant Coach: Candice Finley
4	Lauren Wasylson	Sophomore	Guard	6-0	Valencia, Pa.	Assistant Coach: Mary Grimes
5	Morgan Sharps	Freshman	Guard	5-10	Granville, Ohio	
10	Ashley Gomez	Senior	Guard	5-9	Oklahoma City, Okla.	
11	Olivia Jenkins	Sophomore	Forward	6-0	Plainfield, Ill.	Assistant Coach: Dan Lang
20	Na’Teshia Owens	Senior	Guard	5-5	Mexia, Texas	Assistant Athletic Director for Women’s Basketball: Kelsey Arendt
21	A’riana Gray	Junior	Forward	6-0	Cleveland, Ohio	
25	Carrie Gross	Sophomore	Guard	5-11	Clinton, Md.	
30	Courtney Prenger	Freshman	Forward	6-1	Minster, Ohio	Video Production Coordinator: Jimmy Kistner
44	Ayanna Townsend	Freshman (RS)	Forward	6-2	Pittsburgh, Pa.	

Moore seeks to revive Xavier's winning culture

By LUKE FELICIANO
Sports Editor

Melanie Moore wants to change the culture of Xavier women's basketball, and she seeks to revive the Musketeers' winning ways.

Moore enters her first season at the helm of the program in her first year as a head coach. She has a track record of winning, having been a part of 156 wins while on the coaching staff at Michigan for the last seven seasons.

Altering the cultural landscape starts at the practice level. Moore has introduced a defense-oriented concept called the "X factor," which tracks the top performer in practice each day. Players accumulate points by securing loose balls, taking charges and grabbing rebounds, among other things.

Conversely, players lose points by committing turnovers or missing layups. Moore hopes that this system will contribute to winning basketball games.

"I'm really excited, really proud of this group," Moore said. "They're working hard, they are buying into the new culture that our staff is about every day ... We try to make (practice) a fun environment, an exciting environment and a very passionate environ-



NewsWire photo by Desmond Fischer

First-year women's basketball head coach Melanie Moore takes over the Xavier program in her first head coaching job. She spent the last seven seasons at Michigan, most previously as the associate head coach.

ment." It took a bit of transitioning for the players to become accustomed to the new system, but they are beginning to welcome the new methods.

"It definitely was a change. It took a little bit for us to kind of stop resisting and buy into what (Moore) was doing and what she was saying," senior guard Ashley Gomez said. "Now, coming into school and coming into the summer, we were all bought

in and ready to go ... It was a hard transition, but we figured it out pretty quickly."

Moore employs positive reinforcement. She wants to encourage players to play at their highest level while maintaining an upbeat message.

"Very energetic, really positive," junior guard Aaliyah Dunham said about Moore's coaching style. "Never really focused on the negative ... She's always trying to focus

on what you could do better for the future. Very hard on you, but at times it's good (because) it lets you know how it is."

"She hardly ever will call anybody out on something negative in front of the whole team unless it's something the whole team needs to hear," Gomez added. "I really appreciate that on her side, just reinforcing us positively in front of the team. I think it carries over that we start

reinforcing each other positively."

The Musketeers return the core of their roster from last season, including junior forward A'riana Gray, who averaged a double-double per game last year with 13.9 points per game and 11.5 rebounds per game. She was the team leader in both of those categories and started all 30 games in 2018.

Xavier also returns its second-leading scorer from last year, senior guard Na'Teshia Owens, who averaged 11.5 points per game.

"I think that's the nice thing about having nine returners," Moore said about the team's cohesion. "They know each other better than we know them ... That's what we try to do every day in practice – change up the teams and see who's jelling together better than the other ... To this group's credit, they are all jelling really well."

With several returning players on the roster and the team's mentality shifted in the right direction, the Musketeers are hoping to turn things around and set the program up for success.

Perhaps this success could set the stage for a future Elite Eight run, which has happened twice in the team's history.

Musketeers tout a robust 2020 recruiting class

By JOE CLARK
Staff Writer

After fielding the No. 26 recruiting class in his first recruiting venture as Xavier's head coach, Travis Steele has hit the trail hard again for 2020, bringing in a class that's currently ranked sixth in the nation, per 247Sports.

The class is headlined by two four-star recruits in Dwon Odom and CJ Wilcher. Those two are joined by three-star Colby Jones, who is ranked just outside the top 100 recruits nationally at No. 132, according to 247.

Odom, who's ranked 50th nationally in 247's rankings, was the first to commit to the Musketeers, announcing his intention to come to Xavier last July. He also checks in at No. 77 on the ESPN 100 for the 2020 class.

Odom plays for St. Francis High School, the same program that produced former Xavier forward Kaiser Gates.

Long considered to be one of the top recruits in the class of 2020, Odom, a 6-foot-1 point guard, is known for his athleticism and ability to penetrate the defense inside.

He has the potential to be a high-level defender. 247 drew comparisons in his play style to Milwaukee Bucks guard Eric Bledsoe.



Photo courtesy of hoopseen.com

Four-star prospect Dwon Odom is one of the coveted prospects verbally committed to Xavier, and he highlights a strong 2020 recruiting class.

Wilcher was the second recruit to commit to the Musketeers, and the 6-foot-5 guard from New Jersey is believed to be one of the best pure shooters in the class of 2020.

Along with Naji Marshall and Zach Freemantle, Wilcher would be the third player on Xavier's roster to call the Garden State home.

Wilcher is an off-guard who would complement Odom's play nicely. Wilcher might not be as athletic as Odom but offers his services as a shooter. 247 praised his off-ball movement.

Xavier's third commit for 2020 is Jones, 6-foot-6 wing. 247 said that Jones "does everything at least at an

above-average level" and that he has a high basketball IQ.

He is projected to play shooting guard, but he could also play on the wing at the small forward spot because of his strength and rebounding ability.

With another open scholarship available, Xavier is in the hunt for a fourth recruit to fill out its 2020 class.

After missing out on Ben Carlson, who committed to Wisconsin, it's speculated that Xavier's top target is four-star JJ Traynor.

The team is also involved with three-star wing Darius Miles and three-star combo guard Karim Mane, among others.

Xavier All-Decade Team 2010s

By DONNIE MENKE
Guest Contributor

The decade of the 2010s has been a fruitful one on Victory Parkway, as the Musketeers made three appearances in the Sweet 16 in addition to a trip to the Elite Eight. Some of the best and most memorable players have come out of this decade, and with the 2010s coming to an end after this season, we present to you the All-Decade Team of the 2010s.

Guard- Tu Holloway

Holloway is one of most well-known players in Xavier history. He didn't play his entire career in this decade. However, in the years he did, he won A10 player of the year, was first team All-A-10 twice and was named a third team AP and Sporting News All-American.

He ended his career second in school history in assists and sixth in scoring, though he's since been passed in scoring. He was also one of the most clutch players in Xavier history.

Guard- Trevon Bluiett

Bluiett might be the easiest pick on this team. He was a four-year starter, Xavier's second all-time leading scorer, three-time All-Big East, second team All-American as a senior, the list goes on. He

could score from anywhere on the floor and was a key piece on teams that reached new heights for Xavier.

Guard- J.P. Macura

Macura was a fan favorite at Cintas, even if Xavier's opponents didn't like him all that much. He was known for his hustle and ability to get under the opponent's skin. He was a 1,000-point scorer and was also a key piece in helping Xavier reach a new level.

Forward- Kerem Kanter

Kanter was only at Xavier for one season, but his impact was undeniable. His scoring ability was showcased on one of the best teams in program history.

Forward- Matt Stainbrook

Stainbrook was one of the best passing big men in Xavier history, if not the best. He was a major part of the 2015 Sweet 16 and made the All-Big East 2nd team that year as well. He also finished All-Big East honorable mention the year before.

Honorable Mentions

1. Semaj Christon

2. Jordan Crawford

3. Dee Davis

Enquirer beat writer shares insights about Xavier

By Joe Clark
Staff Writer

Adam Baum remembers being at his grandparents' house, eyes glued to the TV in sheer anticipation.

It was 2004, and Xavier was back in the NCAA Tournament. As a native Cincinnati, he knew what was on the line, having been exposed to the rich history of Xavier basketball before.

"I can remember, I'm pretty sure, they played Duke on a Sunday in the Elite Eight for a spot in the Final Four," Baum recalled. "I could not sit down. I was so invested in that game. I still remember bits and pieces of that game. I still go back and look at pictures in the *Enquirer* archives of that game."

It was a memorable season for Baum to immerse himself into as a fan, and he reflected on his affinity for the team.

"The thing that I love about that team and that story is that they started that year like 10-9," Baum said. "They were not a good team by any stretch, and then they actually beat UC here in the Crosstown Shootout. Lionel Chalmers hit a game-winner basically at the buzzer, and they won seven in a row after that."

Fifteen years later, Baum finds himself in a new posi-



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Native Cincinnati Adam Baum enters his second season as the Xavier beat writer for the Enquirer. He shared his own thoughts and insights about the Musketeers' upcoming season and beyond with the Newswire.

tion — in his second season as the Xavier beat reporter for the *Enquirer*.

He shared his thoughts and insights about the Musketeers heading into the 2019-20 season.

"There is no reason that this team — with its size, athleticism and depth can't be an elite defensive team," Baum said. "They should have no problem shutting teams down. Last year, they really struggled to do that. They gave up big runs. Offensively, it was the turnover trap. I felt like last year, they flat-out played their way out of games

by being careless with the basketball."

He also talked about the importance for this year's iteration of the Musketeers to play more cohesively earlier in the season.

"I think the biggest thing this year for this team is if they're going to have a successful season, they need to put all those pieces into place earlier in the season," he said. "I understand that it takes time to figure it out and get your footing under you, but last year for the last two to three weeks of the season, you could make the argument

they were one of the top 25 teams in the country. It just took them too long to get there and figure that out. If they can find that in November or December, that's going to be the recipe."

Baum also spoke about the outlook of Xavier's future, which appears promising as a result of the recruiting efforts afoot by head coach Travis Steele and the rest of the coaching staff.

Xavier had one of the best recruiting classes in the Big East in 2019 and is constructing a top recruiting class nationally in 2020 with four-star

recruits Dwon Odom and CJ Wilcher in addition to three-star Colby Jones.

"It's an easy answer, but I think it could be a very special time," Baum said. "You look at it from the perspective of you have a really good freshman class here right now. You have a really good incoming freshman class already next year. If you can go three in a row, essentially what that does is that gives you longevity. That says this is not a one- or a two-year thing, this says that we can be good for the next five years."

Baum gave Steele praise for setting the Musketeers up for success in the future to be perennial conference title contenders.

"I think with what Steele and his staff have done, they've already put themselves in a position to contend for Big East titles for the next three or four years," he said. "Now, if you get a good class, I think they've already proven that if you can compete for a Big East title, you're right there nationally."

While Xavier basketball has been among the premier programs in college basketball for the last few decades, this season has the potential to be yet another positive mark in its history.

Newswire staff predictions



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Senior point guard Quentin Goodin returns as a starter and is one of the most seasoned players on the roster. He will play a major role for Xavier in its quest to spearhead a second Big East regular season title.

Luke Feliciano: I think this year's Big East is one of the most wide-open landscapes in my four years as a student. Villanova and Marquette are still strong, but vulnerable. Seton Hall might be the team to beat because it is in a similar spot as Xavier as far as returning players. There will be steep competition, for sure, but Xavier's depth and experience will allow it to finish in the top three in the conference. This year's roster is battle tested. The Musketeers are equipped with the tools to at least march to the Sweet 16 in Travis Steele's second season as head coach. To do so, it will take a concerted effort from the veterans, to the transfers and all the way down to the

freshmen, who could have an impact as well.

Joe Clark: Xavier finishes with an overall record of 23-8 and a Big East record of 11-7. The Musketeers will finish as the Big East runners-up and fall in the Sweet 16.

Hunter Ellis: I think the hype is too soon for Xavier. Following the down season last year, the Musketeers will finish fifth in the Big East. They'll be a No. 10 seed in the tournament, pull off an upset in the first round and fall in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Jake Geiger: Xavier will finish the season with an overall record of 22-9. The Musketeers won't win the Big East regular season, but they'll

emerge victorious in the Big East Tournament. In March, Xavier will make a Sweet 16 appearance.

Will Pembroke: Xavier will have a solid season and finish second in the Big East. The Musketeers will be a No. 4 seed at the NCAA Tournament and advance to the Sweet 16.

Jack Dunn: I want to go back to the Elite Eight like my freshman year, and I want to see Xavier win a Big East Tournament title. That is all.

Kevin Thomas: I'm so excited for this season. How many games are in a season? I think Xavier will win about 20 games, will make it to the Sweet 16 and lose by about 25 points.

Musketeers in the pros update

By Will Pembroke
Staff Writer

Edmond Sumner: Sumner played at Xavier for three years and was one of the team's top scorers during two tournament runs. Drafted by the Pacers in 2017, Sumner signed a two-way deal that summer with the team and eventually inked a multi-year contract in February 2018.

In his first two seasons with the team, Sumner saw little playing time. He spent a couple weeks in both 2018 and 2019 with the Pacers' G-League affiliate, the Fort Wayne Mad Ants.

So far, in the 2019-20 NBA season, Sumner has received playing time as a rotational guard for the Pacers. Of all the former Musketeers currently in the professional ranks, Sumner is the one with the best chance to consistently crack an NBA rotation with his athleticism and proven scoring ability.

Trevon Bluiett: Xavier's second all-time leading scorer entered the NBA Draft in 2018 following his fourth and final year as a Musketeer. He ended up going undrafted but signed a two-way contract with the New Orleans Pelicans.

Bluiett saw no NBA action last year and ended up splitting his time in the G-League between the Westchester Knicks and the Salt Lake City Stars. Following the 2018-19 season, the Pelicans renounced

their rights to Bluiett, rendering him an unrestricted free agent. In September, Bluiett landed a training camp deal with the Utah Jazz. However, he did not make the roster after the preseason.

He was eventually placed on waivers before the start of the regular season.

There is always a place in basketball for someone who can get buckets, so do not be surprised if you see Bluiett's number called by either an NBA or overseas team sooner rather than later.

J.P. Macura: Macura spent four years at Xavier from 2014-18 as one of the pivotal cogs in the Musketeers' NCAA Tournament machine. He pursued a career in the NBA as a dead-eye shooter.

After going undrafted in 2018, Macura signed with the Charlotte Hornets on their training camp roster as a two-way player. Macura found himself in the NBA's developmental G-League for most of the season, only finding game action twice in Charlotte.

In 30 contests with the Greensborough Swarm, Macura averaged a little more than 16 points per game on nearly 46% shooting from the field. Following his release from the Hornets last summer, he landed a training camp spot with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

However, Macura did not make it onto their roster and is now an unrestricted free agent after clearing waivers.

Men's Big East Conference outlook

Xavier will be competitive in a conference forecasted to be up for grabs

BY JACK DUNN

Campus News Editor

The Musketeers closed out the regular season on a 6-1 run — including a victory against Villanova. Xavier was picked to finish third in the Big East Preseason Coaches' Poll, which brings positive vibes to the upcoming season.

Seton Hall was selected at the top of the poll, and for good reason. The Pirates return star sharpshooter Myles Powell, who was selected as this year's Preseason Player of the Year.

The 6-foot-2 guard's potential to put up 30 points on any given night will put opposing teams on notice this season, and his ability combined with newfound depth will make Seton Hall a tough team to beat this year.

Just because Villanova wasn't No. 1 in the conference this season doesn't mean they should be counted out. The Wildcats may have a more difficult time clinging to the top spot in the Big East. They are right up there with Seton Hall and have won five out of the last six regular season titles. The Wildcats lost some key players after last year's

second round exit, but there is still something to be said in head coach Jay Wright's ability to create NBA talent with the group of players he has.

This will largely surface in what improvement junior guard Collin Gillespie will make. The former three-star recruit can become the primary ball-handler for the Wildcats.

Marquette had a rough offseason after a disappointing first round exit in the Big Dance last season. Brothers Sam and Joey Hauser, their second and third top scorers, decided to transfer out in the spring. While elite senior guard Markus Howard returns along with two other starters, the question for the Golden Eagles this year will be if they can continue on their strong defensive play that took them to March last year.

Georgetown led the Big East in scoring last year by averaging 79.5 points per game in conference play. While Patrick Ewing's Hoyas found offensive success, there is still room for improvement on the opposite side of the ball. Georgetown gave up a



NewsWire photo by Desmond Fischer

Senior forward Tyrique Jones' presence in the frontcourt will halt offenses while his rebounding skills can make the difference offensively.

conference worst 80.6 points per game. Georgetown will also have to incorporate six new players and fill the void left by four-year starter Jessie Govan.

Creighton's smaller-sized team may be the weakpoint that opponents will exploit this year. Despite this, its offense should continue to make strides this season. They finished second by eight total three-pointers (behind Villanova) last year, so look for the Bluejays to continue with

their lethal long-range shooting.

Providence had high expectations last season but ultimately fell short by going 7-11 in Big East play and only made the NIT. The Friars bring back their key players in Alpha Diallo and Nate Watson, and hope that their core has enough to make a renewed push towards the top for this season.

Butler returns three starters from last season, but lost Big East Sixth-Man of the

Year Paul Jorgensen and its second leading scorer in Nate Fowler. They also lost Joey Brunk when he transferred to Indiana, but retained preseason First-Team All-Big East selection Kamar Baldwin.

The Bulldogs ranked next to last with 71.9 points per game on the season. This will need to improve for Butler to find success in a packed Big East.

St. John's made it to March last season, but a return is in jeopardy this season. After Chris Mullin left along with the Big East Defensive Player of the Year Justin Simon, the Red Storm have a fresh start for this season.

New head coach Mike Anderson and his seven new players will have quite the road in front of them to repeat last year's trip into March.

DePaul had their best season in a long time last year, but after taking one step forward, the Blue Demons might be taking two steps back. Losing top scorers Max Strus and Eli Cain won't help.

However, there are some bright spots on the roster including Big East Most Improved Player Paul Reed.

Women's basketball Big East Conference preview

Musketeers picked to finish eighth in the Big East Preseason Coaches' Poll

BY JACK DUNN

Campus News Editor

The Musketeers are hoping to make an about-face in the Big East Conference after collecting five league wins in the last two seasons. Xavier was picked to finish eighth in the Big East Preseason Coaches' Poll.

DePaul women's basketball has once again found itself at the top of the poll in a unanimous decision.

The Blue Demons earned all first place votes and a total of 81 points, with St. John's coming in second with 70. DePaul is shaping up to be the team to beat this year in the Big East.

Coming off their fourth Big East Tournament title in the last six seasons, they have since become the winningest program since the conference realignment in 2013.

Finishing 2018-19 with a 26-8 overall record and returning three of their starters, there is no reason for the Blue Devils to expect anything less than success this year.

St. John's finished with a sub .500 record last season at 15-16 but might see a large jump this year.

In its group of three returners comes team leader in scoring, steals and assists red-shirt junior Tiana England.



NewsWire photo by Desmond Fischer

Xavier women's basketball looks to turn around its Big East record in the 2019-20 campaign under new head coach Melanie Moore. The Musketeers have captured five conference wins in the last two seasons.

The Red Storm was also the only team in the league last season to have all of its starters average in double-digits in scoring against Big East teams. Expect them to put up a challenge near the top of the standings.

Seton Hall could also make a big jump in the standings this year. Although they tied with the Red Storm for eighth last season at 15-16, they do have Big East Preseason Player of the Year Shadeen Samuels, who captured the league

scoring title last year by averaging 20.2 points per game. Despite bowing out in the first round of the WNIT, the Pirates have made the postseason in five of the past six seasons.

Creighton earned fourth in the Coaches' poll this season after finishing at 15-16 overall last season. The Bluejays will return their top scorer and rebounder in senior forward Jaylyn Agnew. They were also the only team to beat both the regular-season champs Mar-

quette and the Big East Tournament champ DePaul.

Providence posted their most overall wins in 10 years last season, going 19-16. They also picked up their most Big East victories since 1996-97 with eight. This led them to their first national postseason appearance in the WNIT, where they got to the round of 16.

The Friars return four out of five starters and are led by reigning Big East Freshman of the Year Mary Bakerville.

Providence has a chance to make another big jump in the standings this season.

The Villanova Wildcats tied with the Hoyas for fourth place last season but will return one of the nation's best shooters in Mary Gedaka. She finished third in the country among all Division I players in threes while making 66% of her field goals. She looks to lead the Wildcats to their ninth consecutive postseason appearance this season.

Butler got off to a hot start last season, starting 15-1 and eventually going 23-10 overall. They also return their No. 2 scorer in senior guard Kristen Spolyar. However, the Bulldogs are losing three of their starters this year and were voted seventh in this year's coaches' poll.

Marquette is coming off back-to-back regular season titles and was voted ninth in this year's preseason poll. All five of its graduating seniors were 1,000-plus point scorers for their careers, leaving their new-look team with large shoes to fill.

The Georgetown Hoyas made it to the quarter finals in the 2019 WNIT, but the Hoyas were picked last in this year's poll. Losing 2,000-point scorer Dionna White to graduation on top of losing four starters leads to a long road ahead for the Hoyas.

Xavier's Team 98 features experience and depth

The Musketeers return four starters who averaged double digits last season

BY LUKE FELICIANO
Sports Editor

The Big East has cemented itself as one of college basketball's premier conferences, and there is a valid reason for that.

Unlike some other conferences, the Big East is consistently viewed as one that stays "old." It proves to be tough sledding for younger and inexperienced teams.

That won't be the case for Xavier.

The Musketeers enter the 2019-20 campaign with a veteran-laden roster and the conference's second-best recruiting class to boot.

Mix in some depth, a few transfers and a head coach who values the fundamentals of the game, and Xavier has the elements to improve on a 19-16 season.

"We took it upon ourselves to hold each other more accountable, not just coach (Travis) Steele," senior point guard Quentin Goodin said. "We didn't want the same thing to happen this year like it did last year. One of the big things that's different this year is our chemistry and our jell. That happened almost instantly when we met each other."

Last year, the Musketeers failed to make the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2012-13 in head coach Travis Steele's opening season at the helm of the program.

"I was proud of the way our guys responded at the end of the year," Steele said.



Newswire photo by Luke Feliciano

Men's basketball head coach Travis Steele brings back four players who averaged double-digit points per game last season. The Musketeers were picked to finish third in the Big East Conference preseason poll.

"I thought we got a lot better as the year went on. Kudos to those guys – they were the reason we turned the season around."

This season, the bar is set high, and the coaches' poll provided an early indication of that as Xavier was picked to finish third in the conference. The key to fulfilling that ranking may very well come down to the play of the team leaders.

The Musketeers return 80% of their starting lineup and are the only team in the Big East to bring back four double-digit scorers from the previous season: seniors Tyrique Jones and Quentin Goodin along with juniors Naji Marshall and Paul Scruggs.

Jones is a disruptive force on the interior and a board-getter on the glass. At one point last season, he led

the nation in offensive rebounding percentage. He has shed a considerable amount of weight since his arrival to Xavier, and he is visibly more mobile on the court. He brings an infectious presence and hovers around the rim equipped with a powerful two-handed slam.

Goodin, who secured his spot on Xavier's top-10 career assists list last year, is a distributor at the point guard position.

Last year, he averaged a team-high 4.8 assists per game. Goodin also has success driving to the basket, utilizing his strength paired with a big frame. He offers a wealth of experience since being thrust into a starting role midway through his freshman season.

He's battled some injuries during his career, including plantar fasciitis and a shoul-

der problem, but he is healthy to begin the 2019-20 campaign.

"I think it's big," Steele said about Goodin's abilities as a distributor. "He's gotta be the guy that's a calming influence on the offensive end. He's a senior. He's played in a lot of games, played in a lot of different environments ... He has a gift to find the open guy, especially out of the pick and rolls and in transition. I think that's the best thing he does, and he could be the best in the Big East in doing that."

Marshall and Scruggs each enjoyed breakout seasons last year, settling into more influential roles as starters. As sophomores, they saw ample on-court action and were first and third on the team in average minutes played per game.

Marshall, a Big East All-First Team selection and Xavier's leading scorer last

year, has great length and a relentless slasher approach. He motors to the rim often and can beat defenders using his athleticism.

Scruggs is a versatile player who can assume both the point guard and shooting guard positions.

His all-around game features the ability to drive, shoot and create space without sacrificing much on the defensive end. He is a highly efficient scorer for a back-court player, last year shooting 46% overall and nearly 38% from beyond the arc.

Steele believes this team will be an inside-out squad – it's built around drivers and post players primarily – and shooting will be a secondary option.

Xavier will predominantly employ man-to-man defense, but the sets may vary based on the opponent. Steele cited defensive improvements and wants to establish a top 25 defense. At full strength, the team has the ability to guard one through five, Steele said.

"Our bread and butter needs to be our man-to-man defense," Steele said. "We will change it up within our man-to-man – how we cover ball screens, maybe picking up a little bit more full court, especially with our guard depth that we have this year – but we want to be known for our half court man defense."

For Steele, the formula is simple: If the Musketeers can play hard, mistake-free and disciplined basketball, a lot of games will be placed in the win column this season.

Transfer additions of Moore and Carter increase wealth of veteran presence

BY JOSEPH COTTON
Staff Writer

Xavier has recruited a crop of transfers — like many other teams — during the last few seasons. This season is no different.

The Musketeers added guard Bryce Moore, who comes from Western Michigan, and forward Jason Carter from Ohio.

Both will surely make contributions and add to a team equipped with experienced players.

Moore, who was a high school teammate of former Xavier guard Trevon Bluiett, will play his last season of eligibility with the Musketeers. Carter, who played against Xavier last season with the Bobcats, still has two years of NCAA eligibility remaining.

Carter averaged 16.5 points per game off 48% field goal shooting and 34% from deep. He also contributed 6.7 rebounds per game.

He looks to improve the Musketeers' shooting from long range. Last year, the team averaged seven 3-pointers a game at a 33% clip.

Along with being able to stretch the floor, he is also a physical player who is comfortable taking defenders to the basket from the perimeter as well as playing inside.

Carter should also fit in with the rest of Team 98 with his gritty play style. Along with opening up the floor for the volume scorers such as Naji Marshall and Paul Scruggs, he can add to the tough man-to-man defense Xavier is known for.

Moore previously earned All-MAC Defensive Team honors playing at Western Michigan. He was also named one of the 30 best "in your grill" defenders by ESPN College.

Moore averaged 9.8 points per game off 38% from the field and 37% from beyond the three-point last season.

Moore should be explosive coming off the bench with his hard-nosed defense and speed in transition.

Look for Moore to come in mid-game as a fresh set of legs that will lock down opponents and provide speed and shooting in transition.

"I like (Xavier) a lot," Moore said. "I love the culture here and just how we run things as a whole from top to bottom. Just with (head coach Travis) Steele and everyone else as far as player development ... It's been a good experience."

Similar to Carter, Moore should help with some of the shooting depth last year's team struggled to find.

Moore excels in both catch-and-shoot situations and shooting off the dribble. During his time as a Bronco, he showed no hesitation in pulling the trigger from well beyond the three-point line and a knack for shaking off close-out defenders.

"You are going against really talented guys (at practice)," Moore said. "In the games, you might not necessarily go against guys of their caliber ... It's prepared me for the season."

Both of the transfers have gone through a lot of adversity in dealing with injuries. Moore tore his ACL and reportedly played on it.

Carter injured his knee af-

ter the 2016-17 season and suffered a stress fracture that sidelined him for parts of last season. He recovered quickly, however, and played heavy minutes in his last year at Ohio.

These two transfers round out the Team 98 roster well by adding more depth to an already deep squad. The added depth should make post-season runs easier while providing strong locker room

leadership for the young core of Xavier's recent Top-20 recruiting class. If Carter and Moore can continue the play they are known for, Xavier will be an even harder team to play.

These two players will be crucial to the success of this year's team.

If these transfers can perform well early in the year, the Musketeers should be in good shape.



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Graduate guard Bryce Moore (No. 11) will play out his last season of eligibility with the Musketeers after transferring from Western Michigan.

Sports Xavier Should Feature Instead of Basketball

BY HUNTER ELLIS
Staff Writer

Xavier University is a basketball school, known across the country for its team. Basketball, however, may not be the best choice of a headlining sport for the university.

Let's be clear, basketball is an interesting, exciting sport and in a couple of weeks, Cintas Center will be filled with fans. That being said, there are other exciting sports that would be much more interesting, fun and maybe even more profitable for the university (I'm looking at you, administration).

First, basketball may not even be the best sport that takes place on a court. Instead, handball is a much more intriguing sport. Combine the goals of soccer plus the arc of basketball and you have a perfect set up for handball. The game is played seven on seven, so more players get in on the action. A goal is scored by throwing the ball into the goal. The play is much faster paced than basketball, with lots of dribbling, passing and shots fired at the often helpless keeper.

Everyone knows that Xavier doesn't have football at the NCAA or club level. Maybe football isn't the best fit for the university, for one reason or another. Instead, Xavier should take a different approach to the sport, and be the first college in America to adopt Australian rules football.

Australian rules football is somewhere between American football and rugby. A score is made by 'punting' a ball, which is similar to a rugby shape, through two vertical posts. Australian football has a larger emphasis on a few key things: passing, kicking the ball and making spectacular catches. The most intriguing rules are that you can't run more than six yards before performing a dribble, known as a running bounce and when catching a pass from a teammate, you can use your defender as a springboard or ladder to get high in the air and catch the ball. The play of the game provides a spectacular display of talent.

In sports, it seems people value violence. After all, many people are caught complaining that today's professional football is "too soft" and lacks the excitement of a big hit the game used to have. Some watch hockey just to see a fight or a hard board check or two. These things point to our love of violence in sporting events, and that comes without even mentioning the audiences for boxing or MMA.

Because of this, Xavier should revive the Mesoamerican ballgame. According to historical accounts, the rules varied based on location, but the basics include a heavy rubber ball which couldn't be played with one's arms or legs. Players could end the game by passing the ball through a hoop that hung from the walls of the court. Fans would get their fill of collisions, with players running into the stone walls that surround the I-shaped court, diving to the ground to keep the ball in the air and smashing into each other. Further, at the end of the game, the losing team is sacrificed. Nothing would be more exciting than a sport where the players make every play like their life depended on it.

As students get ready to cheer on the Musketeers this basketball season, it will be enjoyable, but it's important to think about whether it would be more enjoyable to instead be supporting handball, Australian rules football or the Mesoamerican ballgame teams instead.



Fictionary

Your weekly well of wacky words™

BY TESS BREWER
Staff Writer



Flunk: When a player attempts a trick dunk shot and it fails miserably, usually flinging the ball into the lap of an elderly woman in the stands.

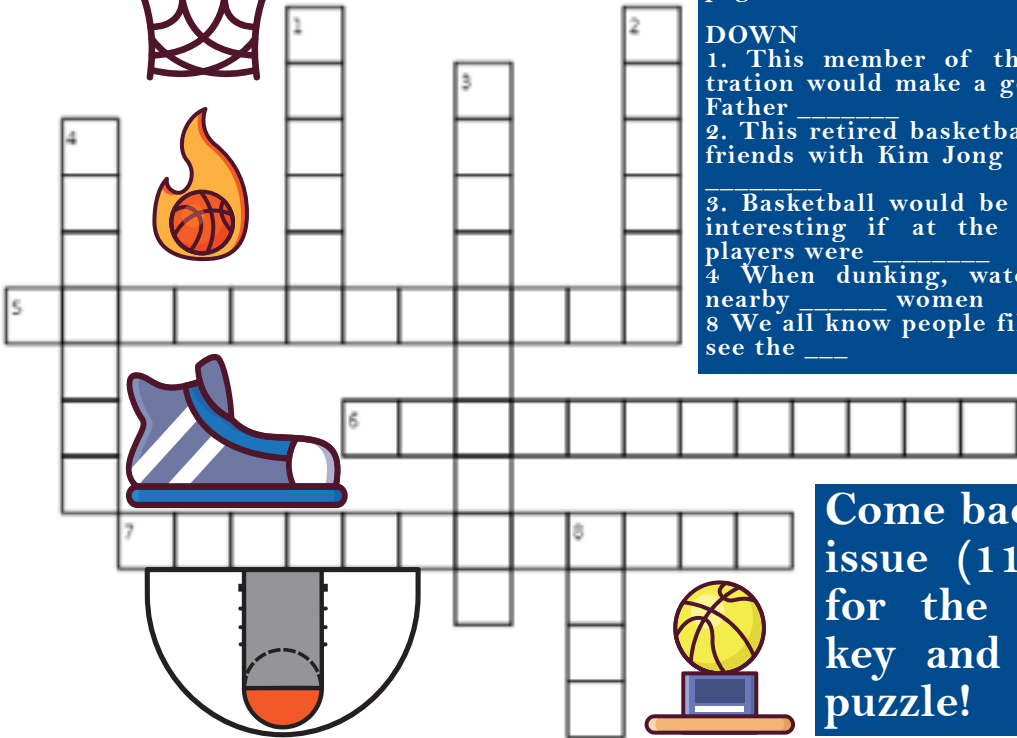
Diggiling: When a player dribbles as slow as possible in order to anger the sluggish members of the other team.

Fresh Prince of Ball-Air: Taunting a player on the opposing team with Will Smith references, causing them to miss a shot.



ACROSS
5. Xavier should consider playing the _____ ballgame
6. The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air was born and raised in West _____
7. You're reading the _____ page

DOWN
1. This member of the administration would make a good center: Father _____
2. This retired basketball player is friends with Kim Jong Un: Dennis _____
3. Basketball would be a lot more interesting if at the end losing players were _____
4. When dunking, watch out for nearby _____ women
8. We all know people fill Cintas to see the _____



Come back next issue (11/6/19) for the answer key and a new puzzle!



Aries: Take that 3-point shot. The stars believe in you.



Taurus: Any Aries you know will blow a lot of 3-point shots this week. Don't bother covering them if they go deep.



Gemini: You ever end up playing a bunch of older men in basketball and then beating them and feeling real good about yourself? Well don't get cocky, kid. That's you in a few years.



Cancer: This week you're going to play like Dennis Rodman! Try not to party like him when you're celebrating.



Leo: The sun advises you to watch out for a classic reversal this week where you and your friends challenge a bunch of glasses-wearing nerds to a b-ball game only to discover that the game of hoops can sometimes be more about brains than brawn.



Virgo: The stars can predict exactly how Xavier's season will go, but I mean, who cares about all of that? We all know Cintas only gets sold out because of the Blue Blob.



Libra: Quit praying while playing. Even Jesus can't help your pitiful game in the paint.



Scorpio: Look man, I get it: You're an edgy guy. And this week, when your team is down by half at the end of the third quarter, and your star player is giving a speech about never giving up, he is going to ask everyone if they are with him. Everyone will, in turn, say they are with him, until finally they are left staring at you. Throw them a bone and be like, "Oh, all right!" Your team still won't win, but it will be a classic moment.



Sagittarius: I know you love him, but you've got to kick your best friend off your intramural team. You'd be better off with Father Graham playing center.



Capricorn: Saturn warns that you won't be able to push past picks this week, but they may only be saying that because Saturn is such a good pick-setter. Have you ever tried to push past a planet?!?



Aquarius: You'll play like crazy this week, but only when playing shirts vs. skins. Your friends might think you're weird for constantly insisting on it, but at least you'll be winning.



Pisces: Give basketball a break this week. Why not try *Dungeons and Dragons*?

Last Week's Answer Key!

